

**REMARKS**

**Summary of the Office Action**

The specification is objected to because of informalities.

Claims 1, 3-8 and 11-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,839,013 to Murasawa et al. ("Murasawa").

Claims 2, 9 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

**Summary of the Response to the Office Action**

Applicants have amended the specification.

Applicants have amended claims 2-6, 9, 10, 12, 15 and 18.

Applicants have canceled claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 2-18 are pending.

**Matters of Form**

The specification is objected to because of informalities. Applicants have amended the specification to delete the foreign language words at page 21, lines 22-23 of the specification.

Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

**All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 2, 9 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 2, 9 and 10 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the respective base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 2, 9 and 10 are in condition for allowance. Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Murasawa. Claims 3-5 are amended to depend from claim 2. The dependent claims recite the same combination of allowable features recited in claim 2, as well as additional features that define over the prior art. Accordingly, claims 3-5 are in condition for allowance as well. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), of claims 3-5, is requested.

Claims 6-8 and 11-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Murasawa. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), of claims 6-8 and 11-18. Applicants have amended claims 6, 12, 15 and 18 to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

Claim 6 recites an image formation system including an image forming part and a control parameter modification part. The image forming part includes a primary transfer mechanism and a secondary transfer mechanism, and sequentially forms test images on recording materials on the basis of a modified control parameter. Thus, as described at page 6, ll. 13-14 and page 6, line 25 – page 7, line 7, and illustrated in Fig. 2 of Applicants' specification, the invention provides, for example, a tandem-type full color image formation system having a plurality of image

formation units that sequentially form toner images of each color on an intermediate transfer belt by a primary transfer mechanism, and then simultaneously form the toner images from the intermediate transfer belt onto a recording material by a secondary transfer mechanism.

In contrast, as described at col. 2, line 55 – col. 3, line 2, and illustrated in Fig. 1, Murasawa merely shows an image formed on a photosensitive drum being transferred to a recording material by a primary transfer mechanism. Applicants respectfully submit that Murasawa does not teach or suggest at least the features of an image forming part including a primary transfer mechanism and a secondary transfer mechanism, as recited in claim 6.

Claim 12 recites an image formation system including an image formation condition setting part, a test chart output part, and an image formation part. The image formation part includes a primary transfer mechanism and a secondary transfer mechanism.

Claim 15 recites a method of determining an image formation condition for forming images on recording materials, including setting a plurality of image formation conditions, and sequentially forming a plurality of images from a primary transfer mechanism and a secondary transfer mechanism on recording materials on the basis of the plurality of image formation conditions set.

Claim 18 recites a storage medium storing a program of instructions to perform a function for determining an image formation condition. The function includes setting a plurality of image formation conditions, and sequentially forming images from a primary transfer mechanism and a secondary transfer mechanism on recording materials on the basis of the plurality of image formation conditions.

Applicants respectfully submit that Murasawa does not teach or suggest at least the features of a primary transfer mechanism and a secondary transfer mechanism, as recited in claims 12, 15 and 18.

Claims 7, 8 and 11 depend from claim 6, claims 13-14 depend from claim 12, and claims 16-17 depend from claim 15. The dependent claims recite the same combination of allowable features recited in the respective independent claims, as well as additional features that define over the prior art. Accordingly, it is requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), of claims 6-8 and 11-18, be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

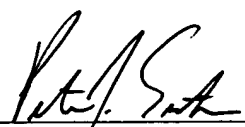
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

**MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP**

Dated: May 12, 2005

By:   
Peter J. Sistare  
Registration No. 48,183

**CUSTOMER NO. 009629**  
**MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP**  
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
202.739.3000